

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**SECRET**

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is issued after the harvest and consists of the poorest quality grain, frequently rye, barley, or various mixtures. Thus, the food problem for a collective farmer is very real.

3. The collective farm is managed by an elected chairman who has control over all work brigades and over the bookkeeper. However, the actual head of the collective farm is a Russian, commonly called podpolkovnik (lieutenant-colonel), who is the local agent of the Ministry of Agriculture. What should be planted, where, and how much is really decided not by the collective farm chairman but by the podpolkovnik.
4. Work on the collective farm starts early in the morning at the sound of a gong, as few workers have watches. A gong also sounds a pause for lunch at 12 noon and signals the end of work. Workdays are counted according to the type of work done. Shepherds, grooms, swineherds, tractor operators, and in the summer-time peat diggers have one workday counted as two. However, on the collective farm the deciding factor is often not the work done but good relations with the chairman of the kolkhoz and the accountant, who is responsible for estimating workdays. If relations with these officials are bad, only half or a third of the days worked will be counted and the farmer will have to beg and starve the entire year.
5. Besides the chairman, the accountant and the brigadier are also elected by the collective farm. Elections are held on the holiday commemorating the establishment of the collective farm and are rigged by the raion Communist Party Secretary and local Executive Committee Chairman, who designate who should be elected to the above-mentioned positions.
6. The shortage of labor is very great, and a large portion of the harvest is left unharvested. For example, because of the shortage of labor in the fall of 1950, 80 hectares of potatoes on a collective farm near Jaskaiciai were not dug up in time and the barley and sugar beets were not brought in. The farm chairman explained that the kolkhoz would not suffer any loss from these crops not having been harvested, since it would now be unnecessary to fertilize the ground in the spring. Also, because of the shortage of labor in fall 1950, large areas of land were left unploughed despite the fact that all tractor operators in the Zagare Raion were authorized to plough at night by floodlight. In the spring of 1951, work in the fields was begun very late, as the winter was very long and hard and the fields were covered with more than a meter of snow. Because of the cold and shortage of feed, many cows, pigs, and horses perished.
7. All those who are forced into collective farms receive certain identification credentials which take the place of a passport for them. If a collective farm member wishes to travel, he must fill out a printed form given him by the farm chairman on which the traveler must show where, when, how, and for what purpose he is traveling. On the basis of these facts, the collective farm chairman writes out a travel certificate in the Russian language. A member of a kolkhoz cannot transfer to a factory because his collective farm entrance pledge will not permit him to change his profession.

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